



The Minuteman Repeater Association

The Minuteman

Volume 37, Number 3

January 2008



Membership Meeting ~ 10 January, 7:30 PM

NOTE: This is a week earlier than normal and a Thursday!

Marlborough Middle School Joint meeting with AARC

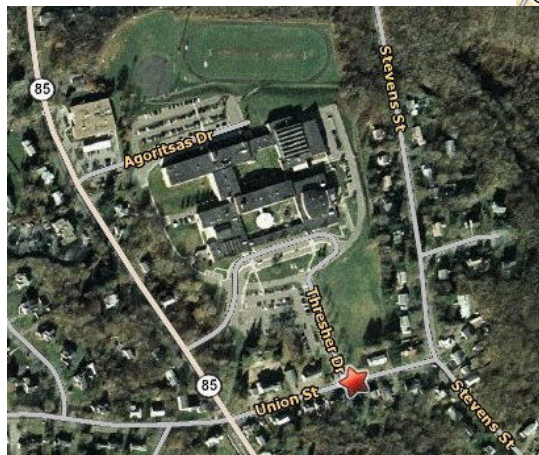
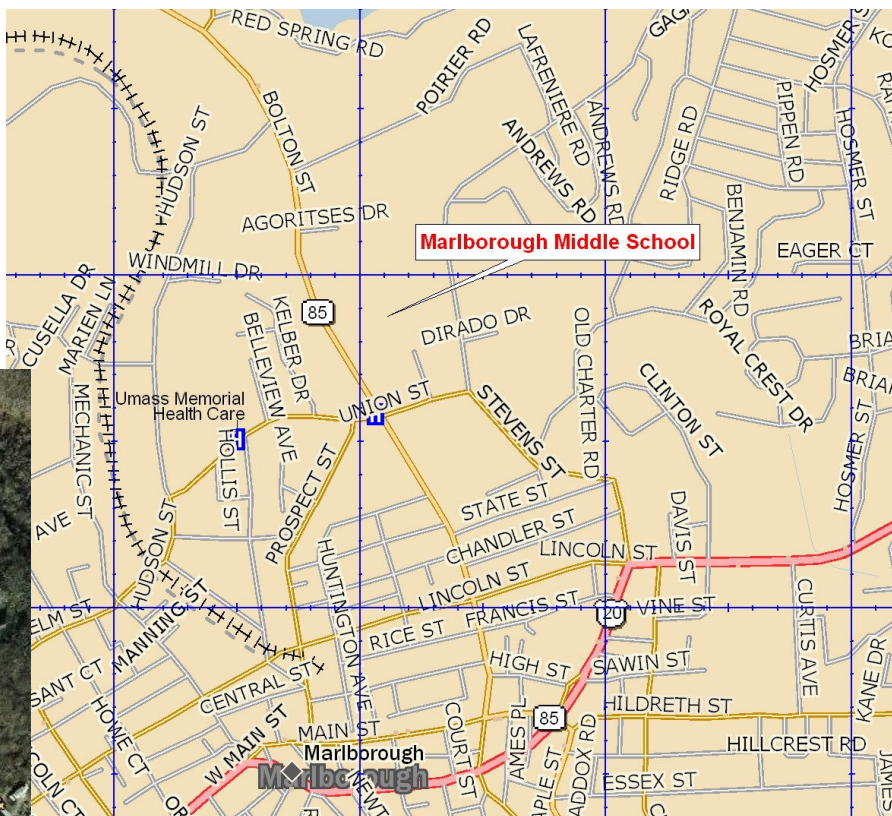
WA1JXR, Greg Algieri ~ Antenna Analyzers

Talk in on 147.27

From 495: take Exit 25W toward Hudson, then right on 85S. Go past 2 lights, then just past Police Station parking lot turn left onto Agoritsas Dr. Go straight and enter 1st main door to info desk.

From 128 via Rt. 20W: in Marlborough, turn right on 85N. After 2nd light and just before Police Station parking lot, turn right onto Agoritsas Dr. Go straight and enter 1st main door to info desk..

Meeting is in the school library.



Your Dues are Overdue...
...if you have not paid your dues
for this year.
PLEASE DO!

Page 3 has a Snail Mail form,
or go to <http://www.mmra.org>
and renew online.

MMRA TlaOS Net
Control Operators
Needed!

See Page 7

We will help you get
started.

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About the Minuteman Repeater Association

The Minuteman Repeater Association (MMRA) is dedicated to Amateur Radio and public service. The MMRA maintains a large system of repeaters in Eastern Massachusetts.

The MMRA meets (usually) on the 3rd Wednesday of September, November, January, March, and May. Meeting time, locations and talk-in frequency vary. These are announced in the newsletter and on weekly nets. Meetings are open to all interested parties.

The Minuteman newsletter is mailed one week before each meeting. Members are encouraged to submit articles. Articles may be sent to the editor via email to newsletter@mmra.org. The deadline for articles is the last Friday of the month preceding the meeting.

Each Tuesday evening at 8PM the MMRA links most of the repeaters for an open net. The topic is "Technical Information and Other Stuff". Please join us.

Membership in the MMRA is open to all radio amateurs. Annual dues are \$25 per individual or \$35 per family. See our website for details.

Email to the club leadership should be sent to contact@mmra.org. The MMRA maintains a web site at: <http://www.mmra.org/>

An email distribution list for club members named "MMRA" has been established at: <http://www.yahogroups.com/>

No part of this newsletter can be copied or posted elsewhere without prior approval from the club. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Repeater and Frequency Information

Location	MHz	PL	Call	Linking	
				To Hub 1	To Hub 2
MMRA Voice Repeaters					
Marlborough	53.810	71.9	W1BRI	PTL	—
Belmont	145.430	67.0	WA1RTT	—	—
Mendon	146.610	146.2	N1BHI	FTL	planned
Quincy	146.670	146.2	W1BRI	PTL	PTL
Stoneham	146.715	146.2	N1NVL	PTL	PTL
Weston	146.790	146.2	N1BE	PTL	planned
Brookline	146.820	146.2	K5TEC	FTL	PTL
Marlborough	147.270	146.2	W1MRA	PTL	PTL
Hopkinton	223.940	103.5	N1BHI	FTL	—
Quincy	224.400	103.5	N1KUG	FTL	PTL
Weston	224.700	103.5	N1NOM	FTL	planned
Marlborough	224.880	103.5	W1MRA	FTL	PTL
Weston	442.700	88.5	N1NOM	Network Hub 2 (PTL to Hub 1 or 448.625)	
Stoneham	446.725	88.5	W1DYJ	FTL	PTL
Southborough	449.575	88.5	W1BRI	FTL	—
Marlborough	449.925	88.5	W1MRA	Network Hub 1 (planned — link to 448.625)	
Affiliated Voice Repeaters					
Bolton	29.620	131.8	W1OJ	PTL to Hub 2 (+ FTL to 448.625)	
Norwell	145.250	77.0	AC1M	PTL	PTL
Coventry RI	145.370	67.0	N1JBC	PTL	—
Norwell	443.600	88.5	NS1N	PTL	PTL
Princeton	448.625	88.5	W1OJ	PTL to Hub 2 (+ FTL to 29.620)	
Milford	446.825	100.0	WA1QGU	PTL to 53.810	
Brookline	447.875	136.5	K1IW	FTL	PTL
MMRA “Other” Systems					
Marlborough	144.390	none	W1MRA	APRS Digipeater	
???	145.630	146.2	W1MRA	Fox Box	
Internet	Echolink node 94940				
	IRLP node 4133				

Notes: FTL = Full Time Linked (usually to Hub 1)
PTL = Part Time Linked (on schedule or demand)
Note — a repeater can be linked to only one Hub at a time.

PL: PL is required to prevent interference. The code **750** will temporarily disable the MMRA PL on the 2M repeaters.

Autopatch: Only the Hub 1 has a telephone line. Link to Hub 1 if necessary, then bring up the autopatch using the 449.925 autopatch codes.

Control codes are sent to members upon receipt of dues.

See Page ??? for information about linking.

Minuteman Repeater Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 669
Stow MA 01775-0669

A Non-Profit Communications Organization Serving the Public in Time of Emergency

— Membership Form —

☐ New or ☐ Renewal

☐ Individual Membership (Dues: \$25 per year) or ☐ Family Membership (Dues: \$35 per year)

I hereby apply for membership in the MINUTEMAN REPEATER ASSOCIATION, INC. I agree to abide by the rules and regulations of the Association as stated in the bylaws and understand that acceptance of this application entitles me to all rights and privileges of membership as provided under the bylaws.

☐ Check box for Electronic Newsletter: Receive content earlier, and in color. Must supply email address.

Name: _____ Callsign: _____ Class of License: _____
 Address: _____ Home Phone: _____
 Town, State, Zip: _____ Work Phone: _____
 Email Address: _____
 Occupation: _____ Employer: _____
 Member of the ARRL? _____ Other Clubs? _____

Bands and Modes you operate. Please check all that apply:

	Fixed	Mobile	Portable	FM	DTMF	CW	RTTY	PSK31	APRS	Packet	SSB
HF											
VHF											
UHF											
Satellite											

I can and am willing to assist/serve the Association and/or help maintain the Repeaters in the following ways:

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Antennas | <input type="checkbox"/> Association Officer | <input type="checkbox"/> Board of Directors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Equipment Construction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Equipment Transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> Grant Writing | <input type="checkbox"/> Legal Aid |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medical Aid | <input type="checkbox"/> Meeting Setup | <input type="checkbox"/> Net Control |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Service | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Radio Shelters | <input type="checkbox"/> Refreshments | <input type="checkbox"/> Repeater Control Operator |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Repeater Technical Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Events | <input type="checkbox"/> Speaking at a meeting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Special Projects | <input type="checkbox"/> VE | <input type="checkbox"/> Web Site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

Other family members:

Name: _____	Callsign: _____	Class of License: _____
Name: _____	Callsign: _____	Class of License: _____
Name: _____	Callsign: _____	Class of License: _____
Name: _____	Callsign: _____	Class of License: _____

MMRA December Board of Directors Meeting

Bob Evans — N1BE — Clerk

The MMRA board met in Northborough MA at the residence of K1IW on the evening of December 19, 2007.

Present were: K1IW, K1KWP, N1BE, W1BRI, WA1NVC, N1BDA, W1DYJ, N1NVK, and KC1US.

Discussion:

1. Secretary Report - W1JMC (via e-mail)

Membership renewal status, what to do to get more renewals, issues with members getting renewal notices:

We are unaware of members ~not~ getting the annual renewal notices by emails [ie (i) with every renewal welcome message, (ii) in the newsletter front page, and (iii) most recently 10/29/07 email reminder.]

Bounces are minimal, then resent to second email address, or mailed. US mail members get the notice on their renewal copy, on each newsletter label (3-4 times) and in the September newsletter text.

Discussion about how to remind members to check when their membership ends. Need more visible notice in newsletter.

2. Treasurer Report - K1KWP

Since last board meeting picked up quite a few membership renewals and sold equipment on eBay. Also a few donations were received. Income so far for this year is about \$1000 less than last year at this time. Now we have about \$200 available for discretionary expenses.

3. Repeater Report - W1BRI

Two hub project is mostly complete. Links from Mendon and Weston to HUB 2 still need some work.

Hub 2 is back up. Bryan has been busy helping with the Framingham 2-M repeater and MEMA's 6-meter repeater on Mt. Wachusett.

Discussed code prefixes to allow Echolink connects to be requested over the air.

Belmont is now an MMRA repeater. At present it is not linked to other MMRA repeaters. Belmont is at the house of WA1RTT. He also is the trustee. We voted unanimously to give him an MMRA membership in exchange for use of the site at his house.

4. Update on D-Star - K1IW

Work is progressing slowly. The owner is expected to have more time to work on this after the winter. Discussion about how to get internet DSL link over phone

line that previously was used there. Also indoor and outdoor lights at the MRE shelter do not work.

5. N1JBC affiliation

Board voted unanimously to approve permanent affiliation of the 145.37 PL 67 Hz Coventry RI repeater.

6. CPSG integration & Walk for Hunger Issues

Eric Horwitz, North Shore DEC, volunteered to lead effort to coordinate public service for this event. Eric is a new MMRA member. CPSG (Crocker Public Service Group) assets have been deposited into MMRA account. Their old web URL now points to a CPSG page on the MMRA web site.

7. Official MMRA control operator list - K1IW

NESMC prefers that each repeater to have an additional control operator separate from the trustee. We discussed members we will ask to serve.

8. Newsletter Items - W1DYJ

With the early meeting in Jan, the newsletter has to get to the printer on Dec 28. Also need reminder to the MMRA Yahoo group.

Discussion of commitments for articles

So much going on with the network that we need a clear description of what is current and what is the future

9. T1aOS net and net controls - W1DYJ

What could we be doing to "acquire" some new net controls? Only two of the weeks of the month have reliable control ops. N1BDA will approach his ARES contacts.

10. Upcoming meetings & events

We have planned meetings and speakers through June. One future meeting suggestion is a meeting that explains the MMRA network in detail.

Marlborough Flea Feb 16. MMRA has some items to sell at the flea. 147.27 will be used for their talk-in. Need someone in addition to K1IW to man the booth.

Boxboro convention, at August 22-24. K1IW may be able to get digital photo frames for our booth.

ARRL Board meeting - looking for someone to go to Springfield for this meeting on the first weekend in Jan.

The meeting ended at: 9:30PM.

The Amateur's Code

The Radio Amateur is:

CONSIDERATE...never knowingly operates in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

LOYAL...offers loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs, and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.

PROGRESSIVE...with knowledge abreast of science, a well-built and efficient station and operation above reproach.

FRIENDLY...slow and patient operating when requested; friendly advice and counsel to the beginner; kindly assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.

BALANCED...radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.

PATRIOTIC...station and skill always ready for service to country and community.

Paul M. Segal, W9EEA, 1928

Treasurer's Report Kevin Paetzold, K1KWP

Income	Dues	\$2399.71
	Donations	421.81
	Misc.	397.03
	Total	\$3218.55

Number of members renewed to date = 131

Number not yet renewed = 53

Expenses	Spent to date	\$2102.54
	Expected expenses	953.14
	Total	\$3055.68

Discretionary Funds **\$ 162.87**

President's Message Bob DeMattia, K1IW

Every Tuesday night at 8PM, MMRA continues a time-honored tradition: The MMRA Technical Information and Other Stuff net. This is a weekly over-the-air meeting for MMRA members and non-members alike. While our bi-monthly meetings require a trek to our various meeting spots, this is a meeting you can attend from the comfort of your home, automobile, or wherever you might be at the time.

Larry Banks has been the net manager for our little net for several years now. He tells me attendance on the net hasn't been too bad, but he's having trouble finding regular net controls to run the net. Larry's a great guy and has been running a lot of the nets himself, but, that's not what a club activity should be about.

Have you got thirty minutes to an hour you can spare once a month? You don't have to go anywhere, just be near your favorite radio. Get your cup of coffee, a piece of paper, and a pencil and take part in this long-running club activity. If you'd like to help out as a net control, drop Larry a note at wldyj@mmra.org. He'll show you what to do and get you up and running. If you don't want to net control, at least join us for an interesting conversation – every Tuesday, at 8 PM, on all MMRA repeaters except 145.43.

[See Page 7 for more information.]

Upcoming MMRA Meetings

All meetings start at 7:30 unless otherwise noted.

Date	Location	Feature
Sep 19 7 PM	Westborough Library	Solar Powered Stations, Phil, N1XTB
Oct 17	Stratus Computer	Board Meeting
Nov 14	MEMA	Wide Area Amateur Radio Network, Bob, N1KMA
Dec 19	K1IW Home QTH	Board Meeting
Jan 10	Marlborough MS	Joint meeting with AARC
Feb 20	TBD	Board Meeting
Mar 19	Campion Center, Weston	GEMOTO and the Mt. Uncanoonuc Repeater System, Rick, K1RJZ
Apr 16	TBD	Board Meeting
May 21	Clay Center Observatory, Brookline and General Elections	Astronomy Night

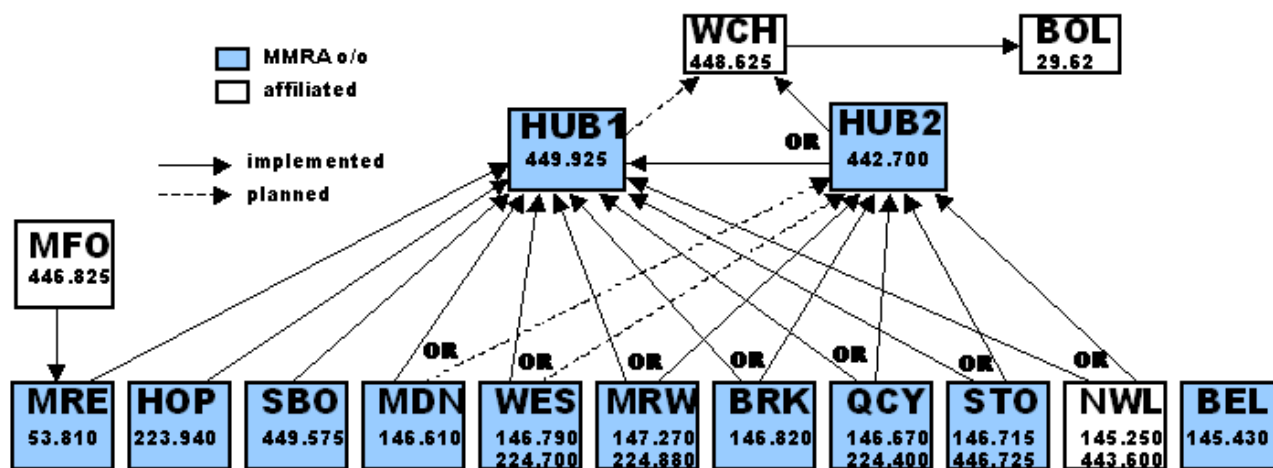
Linking on the MMRA Network ~ Bob DeMattia, K1IW

Linking / Delinking repeaters on the MMRA network just got a lot easier. From the repeater you are on, simply enter "C1" to connect to Hub 1, or "C2" to connect to Hub 2. A code of "DD" will disconnect any existing link.

If you wish to link from the HUB side, you still need to use the four digits codes. However, the "two-step" process of having to enter a member preaccess code, then the linking command, as been eliminated. Instead, simple enter the linking command by entering the three digits after the decimal point of the repeater you want to link – for example "670" for Quincy, "820" for Brookline, "715" for Stoneham, etc followed immediately by a "0" to delink, "1" to link to HUB1, or "2" to link to HUB2.

Not all repeaters can link to both hubs. Consult the following diagram to see what's possible. Also, if you try to link from the HUB side, the repeater you are calling needs to be listening to the correct HUB. When unlinked, this is most often HUB1. However, at a site where there are two repeaters, if one repeater is delinked and the other is linked, the delinked is listening to the same hub as the linked one.

Please remember, use of the linking/delinking codes is reserved for MMRA members. Non-members found to be using the codes will be asked to refrain. If this becomes a problem, the more complicated two-step linking process which required a member preaccess code first will return.

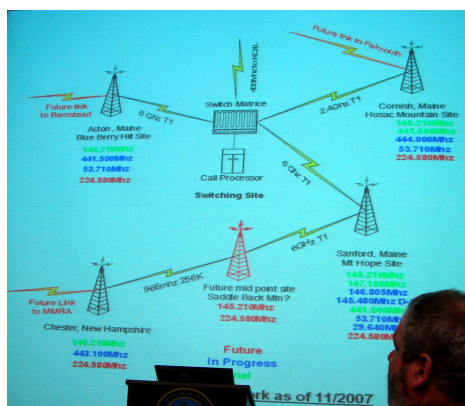


November Membership Meeting ~ Larry Banks, W1DYJ

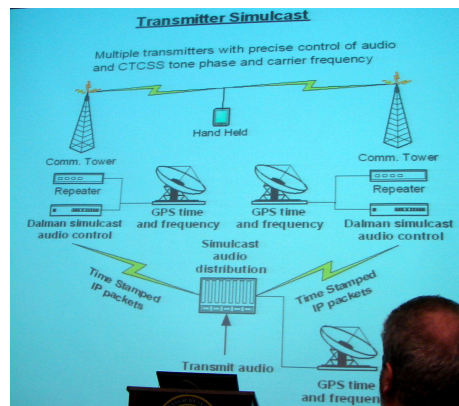
Bob Stone, N1KMA

The Wide Area Amateur Radio Network

Bob is a key player in the Wide Area Amateur Radio Network (WAARN). The network consists of seven full time linked repeaters in Maine and New Hampshire, including two sets of three synchronous transmitters on 145.21 and on 441.50. When you are operating within the network area, your signal is voted by the three receivers and retransmitted on all



three transmitters. But, the system is more than that - all repeaters are tied to a central HUB via common carrier. The network can be controlled via traditional DTMF but also through a web interface that displays the current system status. Bob described their system and also talked about future plans.



MMRA Leaders

President	Bob DeMattia	K1IW
Vice President	Steve Telsey	N1BDA
Secretary	John McGovern	W1JMC
Treasurer	Kevin Paetzold	K1KWP
Clerk	Bob Evans	N1BE
Technical Officer	Bryan Cerqua	W1BRI
Director 2006-08	Clark Conti	N1NVK
Director 2006-08	Bill Hanrahan	W1WH
Director 2007-09	Steve Schwarm	W3EVE
Director 2007-09	Roger Coulson	WA1NVC
Emergency Coordinator	James Cahill	KB1LOY
Net Manager	Larry Banks	W1DYJ
Newsletter Editor	Larry Banks	W1DYJ
Public Service Coordinator	James Cahill	KB1LOY
VEC Liaison	Bill Wade	K1IJ
Web Page Editor	Bob DeMattia	K1IW

Don't Forget!

Every Tuesday @ 8 PM
Technical, Informational
and Other Stuff Net

The MMRA's repeaters are linked Tuesday nights for the TIAOS Net. Join us! This is a good way to keep up with what is happening in the MMRA and ask your ham related questions.

We need a control operator for the first and third Tuesdays of each month – contact me at W1DYJ@mmra.org if you would like to running the net some evening – we have a script you can use to start with. This is good practice for a number of ham related operations, from emergency preparedness to contesting.

Current Net Control Operators:

Week 1	?????	We Need You!
Week 2	W1EUJ	Dave Goncalves
Week 3	?????	We Need You!
Week 4	K1KWP	Kevin Paetzold
Week 5	W1DYJ	Larry Banks

Newsletter Delivery

If you received this via US Mail, you might want to think about having it sent by eMail. You will receive it earlier, it will be in color, it may have MORE great content, and it will save the MMRA \$\$\$! Send your request to W1JMC@mmra.org.

Past Newsletters are available at <http://www.mmra.org/>

MMRA VE Sessions

3rd Saturday of each Month
 9 AM at the
 Marlboro Public Library
Contact: Bill Wade, K1IJ
 781-891-9079

Evenings 6 to 10 PM,
 Weekends 8 AM to 10 PM.

Accredited by the ARRL VEC



Membership Meeting ~ 10 January, 7:30 PM @
NOTE: This is a week earlier than normal and a Thursday!
Marlborough Middle School Joint meeting with AARC
WA1JXR, Greg Algieri ~ Antenna Analyzers
Talk in on 147.27

Calendar of Ham Radio Events

Public Service Events

See this web site for contact information

<http://purl.org/hamradio/publicservice/nediv>

Feb 8-10 Laconia NH	World Champ Dog sled races
Feb 16 Laconia NH	Sandwich Notch 60 sled race
Jul 12 Woburn MA	New England Classic Tour
Jul 13 Durham NH	New England Classic Tour
Jul 14 Biddeford ME	New England Classic Tour
Jul 15 North Conway NH	New England Classic Tour
Jul 16 Northfield VT	New England Classic Tour
Jul 17 Killington VT	New England Classic Tour
Jul 18 Rindge NH	New England Classic Tour

New England Area Ham - Electronic Flea Markets

See this web site for contact information

<http://mit.edu/w1gsl/Public/ne-fleas>

2 Feb	Chelsea ME AARA @Crystal Falls
16 Feb	Marlboro MA AARC @Intermediate Sch
17 Feb	Westford MA Radio 39 Antique @Regency
23 Feb	Milton VT RANV @HS
15 Mar	Pomfret CT ECARA @Comm Sch
30 Mar	Southington CT SARA @HS
30 Mar	Henniker NH CVRC @Comm Sch
5 Apr	Londonderry NH IRS @Lions Sellers
6 Apr	Framingham MA FARA @Keefe Sch
13 Apr	LaGrangeville NY MtBARC @TymorePk
19 Apr	Manchester NH NEAntqRC @BingoCtr
20 Apr	Cambridge MA FLEA at MIT
2-3 May	Deerfield NH NearFest @FG
18 May	Cambridge MA FLEA at MIT
30-31 May	Rochester NY RARA
7 Jun	Hermon ME PSARC @HS @8

THE MINUTEMAN REPEATER ASSOCIATION

MMRA
P.O. Box 669
Stow, MA. 01775-0669

Email: contact@mmra.org



WE'RE ON THE WEB
[HTTP://WWW.MMRA.ORG/](http://www.mmra.org/)
